



**Testimony in Support of
SB 0186
Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund
Senate Budget and Tax Committee
1/25/2022**

**Jamie DeMarco, Maryland Director
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund**

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report for SB 0186.

Solar and wind energy is now the cheapest forms of electricity anywhere. Whenever there is a bid for new electricity, the cheapest bids are solar and wind coupled with batteries that can provide reliable, 24/7 power. In 2022, [74%](#) of all new electricity generation came from solar, wind, and batteries. That percentage has been shooting up every year because wind and solar coupled with batteries provide the cheapest form of reliable energy on the market.

This is great news and it didn't happen by accident. This legislature and other legislatures like it invested in wind and solar over the past two decades and brought down their costs astronomically. From the first RPS more than 20 years ago to the Clean Energy Jobs Act and the Climate Solutions Now Act your legislative action has made it so that cost is no longer the limiting factor on how much wind and solar we can deploy.

Now, the limiting factor on how much wind and solar we can deploy is space. We are having trouble finding space to put all the solar panels that people want to build.

This legislation plays the crucial role of identifying a new space for solar panels, namely the rooftops of nonprofit buildings. As someone who co-founded and ran the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiative nonprofit, I can tell you that it is extremely difficult for nonprofits to buy their own solar panels. Nonprofits lack the tax equity to benefit from tax credits for solar panels, and nonprofits are rarely cash rich, meaning it is difficult to pay the upfront cost of the panels. This legislation helps bridge that gap.

The climate crisis demands we deploy solar panels as quickly as humanly possible. Furthermore, Maryland imports 40% of the electricity it uses, and as a result every year Maryland ratepayers send billions of dollars out of state. Every locally owned solar panel that goes up in Maryland means more of the dollars we all spend on our energy bills stay right here at home.



If this bill passes, roofs of nonprofits across Maryland will be covered with solar panels creating clean, affordable, reliable electricity that everyone in the state will benefit from.

We urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Jamie DeMarco

CONTACT
Jamie DeMarco, Maryland Director
jamie@chesapeakeclimate.org, 443-845-5601

